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***Silybum marianum* (L.) Gaertn. callus cultures as a source of biotechnologically active substances**

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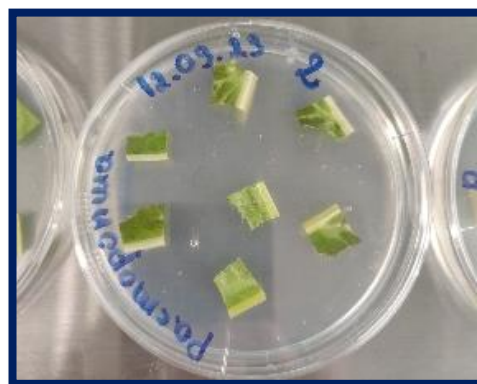
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Silybum marianum is a medicinal plant commonly known as milk thistle. *S. marianum* is a source of antioxidants, flavolignans, silymarin and other biologically active substances [2]. Biologically active substances are isolated from the seeds of the plant. However, growing milk thistle is a complex and time-consuming process.

Fragments of 1 cm² were cut out from a sterile sheet adjacent to the central vein and placed in Petri dishes with Murashige-Skoog agar medium [1]. Petri dishes were incubated at a temperature of 26 °C.



At the second stage of the study, subcultivation of calli was carried out. Cells measuring 2-3 mm were selected and grown on Murashige-Skoog agar medium at a temperature of 26 °C.

The technology makes it possible to successfully obtain a cell culture from explants of milk thistle leaves within 2 months and use it for further biomedical research.

